

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Apparatus for the storage and deposition of a plurality of liquid food components to a mould, said apparatus including:

5 a deposition mechanism for intermittently depositing predetermined quantities of said plurality of liquid food components to said mould, said mechanism having a plurality of individual deposition points;

a plurality of liquid food storage vessels, each having an outlet adapted to supply an individual liquid food component to said deposition mechanism; and

10 a plurality of arrayed liquid food supply galleries extending from said liquid food storage vessels to said deposition mechanism, thereby to facilitate flow of said food components to said deposition points;

wherein said plurality of liquid food storage vessels are each equipped with an elongate outlet, said outlet being adapted to allow said liquid food to flow substantially directly into each supply gallery along that inlet region; and

15 wherein there is provided a means for selectively allowing or preventing flow of the contents of each or any of said vessels to each or any of said galleries.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the means by which flow of the liquid food from any one vessel is directed to the predetermined gallery or galleries is a program plate, said program plate having apertures selectively positioned such 20 that, when said plate is installed in an operational position between said vessel outlet and the inlet of said chosen galleries, said apertures provide an open conduit between both the given liquid food vessel outlet and the inlet of each predetermined gallery, thereby allowing only the given liquid food to enter said predetermined gallery or galleries.

25 3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein a plurality of interchangeable customised program plates are provided for the direction of food component flow required for different individual product deposition schemes

4. The apparatus of any preceding claim, wherein the apparatus is configured such that a space between the outlets of aid vessels and the inlets of said 30 galleries is adapted to receive program plates that are adapted to slide into said

operational position, thereby facilitating interchange of the depositing configuration of the moulding equipment between runs of different products.

5. The apparatus of any preceding claim, wherein said liquid food storage vessels are characterised by a plurality of broad, nested hoppers, each having an

5 elongate slot serving as an outlet, said slots being effectively arranged one on top of the other and disposed adjacent the inlets of the arrayed galleries.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the program plates are solid plates whose height is substantially equal to the combined height of said slots and which feature apertures aligned vertically with each individual slot and aligned 10 longitudinally with the individual galleries into which it is desired that the liquid food from said slot will flow.

7. The apparatus of any preceding claim, when used in the manufacture of multi-coloured confectionery.

8. The apparatus of any preceding claim, wherein said plurality of liquid food 15 components are coloured confectionery syrups.

9. Apparatus for the storage and deposition of a plurality of liquid food components to a mould substantially as herein described with reference to the figures.

10. A multi-component food product, when manufactured via apparatus as 20 defined in any preceding claim.

11. The multi-component food product of claim 10, wherein said food product is multi-coloured confectionery.

12. A method of manufacturing a multi-component food product, said method including the step of depositing one or more of said components via apparatus as 25 defined in any one of claims 1 to 10.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said multi-component food product is multi-coloured confectionery.